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ABSTRACT

The 37 references in this annotated bibliography are compiled for researchers of information on the censorship of sexual materials from ancient times to present. The materials include case studies, histories, essays, and opinion pieces about the use and regulation of "obscenity" in literature, pictorial art, radio broadcasting, the mail, film, and other media. Although this bibliography lists only books, it includes citations to reference volumes for periodicals, essays, and current events source materials. (JG)

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CENSORSHIP OF SEXUAL MATERIALS

A Selected, Annotated Basic Bibliography

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June, 1984

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This is a bibliography of books about the censorship of sexual materials from ancient times to the present. Those who wish to add materials from periodicals are referred to the standard periodical indexes, and to these reference volumes: Ralph E. McCoy, Freedom of the Press: An Annotated Bibliography (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1968); Ralph E. McCoy, Freedom of the Press: A Bibliocyclopedia, Ten Year Supplement (1967-1977) (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1978); and Greg Byerly and Rick Rubin, Pornography, the Conflict over Sexually Explicit Materials in the United States: An Annotated Bibliography (New York: Garland, 1980). Also, the search for essays should include the Free Speech Yearbook, published annually since 1970 by the Speech Communication Association; and the search for current events should include the bi-monthly Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom, published by the American Library Association (50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611).

Berns, Walter. Freedom, Virtue and the First Amendment. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1957.

Berns argues that the Supreme Court should judge artistic expression by some test other than clear-and-present danger; otherwise, "virtue" will not be adequately protected.

Bosmajian, Haig A., ed. Obscenity and Freedom of Expression. New York: Burt Franklin and Co., 1976.

This comprehensive compendium of court cases begins with Hicklin (England, 1868) and journeys to Miller (U.S. 1973). The editor includes cases of "obscenity" in books, pictures, film, theatre, broadcasting, political speech, and the schools.

Boyer, Paul S. Purity in Print: The Vice-Society Movement and Book Censorship in America. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1968.

This well-documented work surveys the history of censorship in America from the beginning of the vice society movement of the mid-nineteenth century to the 1930's.

Chandos, John, ed. "To Deprave and Corrupt": Original Studies in the Nature and Definition of "Obscenity." New York: Association Press, 1962.

Chandos has edited an excellent collection of original essays, including a range of views both for and against censorship.

Clapp, Jane. Art Censorship: a Chronology of Proscribed and Prescribed Art. Metuchen, N. J.: Scarecrow Press, 1972.

Clapp's chronology covers the censorship of pictorial art from 3400 B. C. to 1971. Film is excluded. The book is carefully indexed by artist, title of the work of art, and subject.

Cline, Victor B., ed. Where Do You Draw the Line? Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1974.

Twenty writers give their reasons for favoring the censorship of "pornography." Includes Irving Kristol's "The Case for Liberal Censorship," and Ernest van den Haag's "Democracy and Pornography."

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Clor, Harry M. Obscenity and Public Morality: Censorship in a Liberal Society. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1969.

Clor presents a serious argument in favor of the censorship of "obscenity." His study includes an interesting effort to define "obscenity."

Comstock, Anthony. Traps for the Young. Edited by Robert Brenner. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1967. (Reprint of the original edition published in 1883.)

Anthony Comstock, author of the federal mail-censorship statute of 1873, makes his emotional case for the suppression of "immoral literature" and other "vices" in this quaint publication--a fascinating artifact from the history of censorship in America.

Copp, David, and Wendell, Susan, eds. Pornography and Censorship. New York: Prometheus Books, 1984.

The editors, professors of philosophy in British Columbia, have collected fifteen essays and six court decisions which present a variety of views concerning the censorship of sexual materials in Canada, England, and the United States.

Craig, Alec. Suppressed Books: A History of the Conception of Literary Obscenity. Cleveland: World Publishing Co., 1963.

Craig searches for the origin of "obscenity" as a legal doctrine in England, then traces the rise of the law of "obscenity" and how it was--and still is--applied in England and the United States.

Ernst, Morris L., and Schwartz, Alan U. Censorship: The Search for the Obscene. New York: Macmillan, 1964.

The authors, both of whom are lawyers, have written a history and analysis of the "obscenity" controversy from pre-Comstock to post-Roth.

Gardiner, Harold G. Catholic Viewpoint on Censorship. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1958.

Father Gardiner's book is a widely-quoted "standard" volume on why Catholics believe that censorship of sexual materials is justified.

Goldstein, Michael, and Kant, Harold. Pornography and Sexual Deviance. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1973.

This book reports the results of a research project on the causal relationship between erotica and anti-social behavior; it concludes that there is little evidence to show that reading or viewing sexual materials causes one to act uncivilized.

Haight, Ann Lyon. Banned Books, 4th ed. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1978.

Haight's chronological list of suppressed books, while not exhaustive, covers typical censorship cases from 387 B. C. into the 1970's. It is excellent for quick reference and for a general overview of the subject.

Haney, Robert W. Comstockery in America: Patterns of Censorship and Control; Boston: Beacon Press, 1960.

Censorship opponent Haney wrote this book in reply to Gardiner's Catholic Viewpoint on Censorship.

Hart, Harold H., ed. Censorship: For and Against. New York: Hart Publishing Co., 1971.

Hart's collection of twelve essays on the censorship of sex includes pro and con viewpoints of well-known writers.

Haselden, Kyle. Morality and the Mass Media. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1968.

Baptist Haselden presents a "protestant viewpoint" on censorship, reaching a conclusion that juveniles should be protected but that adults, by and large, should be permitted to make free choices.

Holbrook, David, ed. The Case Against Pornography. LaSalle, Ill.: The Library Press, 1973.

Holbrook's collection includes essays by psychiatrists, psychotherapists, academicians, novelists, critics, and journalists--all of whom argue that "pornography" is a threat to civilization.

Hughes, Douglas A., ed. Perspectives on Pornography. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1970.

Hughes has edited a collection of fourteen essays by "distinguished novelists and critics" on the subject of "pornography." The essays focus upon the written word.

Kahn, Frank J., ed. Documents of American Broadcasting. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1984.

Kahn's excellent anthology covers statutes, FCC policies, and other materials concerning programming standards. Included is the case of FCC v. Pacifica Foundation (1978) in which the Supreme Court upheld the FCC's authority to censor "indecency" from the airwaves.

Kronhausen, Eberhard, and Kronhausen, Phyllis. Pornography and the Law. New York: Ballantine Books, 1959. (New York: Bell Publishing Co., 1975 hardback reprint).

The Kronhausens, a husband-wife team of psychologists, argue that the Supreme Court's effort to define "obscenity" is illogical and unworkable. They present their own analysis of the difference between "erotic realism" and "obscenity-pornography."

Lewis, Felice Flanery. Literature, Obscenity, and Law. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1976.

Lewis' comprehensive study focuses upon the censorship of literature in the United States. She analyzes trends in the sexual content, and compares and contrasts the judicial opinions in the censorship trials of all fictional works for which court records are available.

Longford Committee Investigating Pornography. Pornography: The Longford Report. London: Coronet Books, 1972.

"Pornography" opponent Longford, member of the British House of Lords, initiated this private study of explicit sexual materials. The book reflects Longford's view that England needs stricter censorship.

Marcus, Steven. The Other Victorians: A Study of Sexuality and Pornography in Mid-Nineteenth-Century England. New York: Basic Books, 1966.

This history and criticism of the literary sub-culture of Victorian England was the first of the Kinsey Institute's series of studies in sex and society. Scholarly and well written, it helps to explain contemporary Comstockery.

Obeler, Eli M. The Fear of the Word: Censorship and Sex. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1974.

Obeler's carefully-documented study is a history of the cultural influences which have led Western society to suppress sexual literature. The author deals in detail with the "sex-is-sin" view of Christianity.

Paul, James C. N., and Schwartz, Murray L. Federal Censorship: Obscenity in the Mail. New York: The Free Press of Glencoe, Inc., 1961.

The authors have written a history and analysis of the efforts of the U.S. Government to censor "obscenity" in the mails. They include a discussion of the effects of postal censorship upon individual freedom.

Randall, Richard S. Censorship of the Movies: The Social and Political Control of a Mass Medium. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1968.

Randall covers film censorship in the U.S. through the mid-1960's. He then analyzes social and political issues, discussing types of control--from criminal prosecution to self-regulation.

Rembar, Charles. The End of Obscenity. New York: Random House, 1968. (Paperback edition, Bantam Books, 1969).

Attorney Rembar has written an account of his successful defense of Lady Chatterley's Lover, Tropic of Cancer, and Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure. Defense strategies and arguments are carefully explained.

The Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970.

This report includes the recommendations of the majority of Commissioners that consenting adults be allowed to make their own decisions about explicit sexual materials, without government interference. The minority dissent is included.

Rist, Ray C., ed. The Pornography Controversy. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Books, 1975.

Rist's collection of fourteen essays presents a variety of views on the censorship of "obscenity."

Robertson, Geoffrey. Obscenity. An Account of Censorship Laws and Their Enforcement in England and Wales. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1979.

History and analysis of how the British legal system has attempted to deal with censorship of "the obscene," together with the author's proposed solution to the problem.

Schauer, Frederick F. The Law of Obscenity. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Affairs, 1976. (New edition currently being prepared.)

Although this text presents obscenity law from the viewpoint of the trial lawyer, it is a useful reference for the non-lawyer as well.

Schroeder, Theodore. "Obscene" Literature and Constitutional Law. New York: Da Capo Press, 1972. (Reprint of the original edition of 1911.)

Schroeder, an opponent of Anthony Comstock and censorship, gives his rebuttal to Comstock's arguments and sets out one of this century's first book-length libertarian views on freedom to disseminate sexual materials.

Scott, George Ryley. "Into Whose Hands": An Examination of Obscene Libel in its Legal, Sociological and Literary Aspects. London: Gerald G. Swan, 1945.

Scott's classic analysis and criticism of British censorship is "must reading" for serious students of freedom of expression. The author includes history, cases, and arguments for and against. Chapter 11 concerns censorship in the United States.

Sharp, Donald B., ed. Commentaries on Obscenity. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1970.

Sharp's anthology surveys legal censorship in the United States through 1969, then presents sixteen essays by legal scholars. The editor gives particular attention to the conviction of Ralph Ginzburg (1966).

Yaffé, Maurice, and Nelson, Edward C., eds. The Influence of Pornography on Behavior. London: Academic Press, 1982.

British psychologists Yaffé and Nelson have collected ten essays, each by a professional in fields such as psychiatry, social work, and law, concerning the question of how explicit sexual materials affect human conduct.

Zurcher, Louis A., Jr., and Kirkpatrick, George. Citizens for Decency: Antipornography Crusades as Status Defense. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1976.

Sociologists Zurcher and Kirkpatrick, using controlled systems of data collection, employ social movement theory in analyzing two anti-pornography crusades. The result is a unique study in the area of censorship.